

## DESPITE PROTEST, HOUSE VOTES FOR BIGGER PENSIONS

(Continued From First Page)

The amendments had been adopted because of a mistaken and unwarranted judgment, and that the bill as passed would greatly disturb the division of money as laid out by the Appropriations Committee.

"The House has expressed its judgment, and should stand by it," said, "I, for one, will oppose taking away any money from the educational institutions of this State."

**Must Cut On \$125,000 a Year.**  
Chairman Bremer, of the Appropriations Committee, was delayed in reaching the bill by a late train. "I wish to call the attention of the House," he said, "to the fact that I stated on this floor last week that the appropriation bill, as reported, allowing for the special appropriation, bills pending would, according to the best calculations of Auditor Moore, Mr. Sale and myself, as to the probable revenues for the next two years, lower the treasury at the end of that period by a balance of \$12,478.22. The appropriation bill is set as a special order for tomorrow morning, and in view of the action the House has taken on this bill, I shall ask it be thrice read at least to the extent of \$125,000 a year. If you do not do that, there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that the State will have a deficit in 1914."

**What Bill Provides.**  
The State appropriation for Confederate pensions last year was \$500,000, of which about \$400,000 remained unexpended. The Committee on Appropriations revised the schedule in the various classifications, making a general 20 per cent increase, and in the general appropriation bill provided \$550,000 per year for the next two years. The Senate Appropriations Committee provided a like amount, and the bill has already passed the Senate, carrying \$540,000 per year for pensions. The House yesterday took the bill, as reported by the Committee on Appropriations, and still further raised almost every classification, some 15 to 20 per cent, and changed both the limit of property a veteran may own to be eligible for a pension, and also the date before which pensioners must have married, in order that his widow may be eligible. A new "loyalty" clause, which would have permitted those who straggled or deserted toward the close of the war to receive pensions, was rejected, though a general clause directing that the bill be construed liberally, giving authority to admit to the rolls those believed to have been loyal, even though not regularly discharged, was adopted.

**Some of the Classifications.**  
The classifications of pensions were fixed as follows:

Class A—Heretofore paid \$150, fixed by committee at \$150 per annum, and not further amended.

Class B—Those who lost foot or hand, heretofore paid \$50, were raised by the committee to \$60, and by the Chamberlain amendment to \$75.

Class C—Disabled by wounds or disease, heretofore paid \$25, raised by committee to \$35, and by further amendment to \$50.

Auditor Moore reports that the total disability pensioners under schedules C and D for the House amendments over and above the committee report will cost \$26,778 per annum, for the partial disability, an increase of \$36,654, making the total increase in these two classifications over the report of the committee \$63,432 per annum.

As to the amendment raising the

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date of marriage from 1868 to 1870. Auditor Moore reported: "The last of the amendments offered by Mr. Chamberlain, which is one that the auditor has no means of knowing how many would be added to the roll. When the limit was extended from 1866 to 1868, it added more than 1,500 widows to the pension rolls."

**New Classification Added.**  
On motion of Messrs. Radford and Pennington there was inserted a new classification of pensioners to be known as class 1, providing that every person over the age of sixty-five, who was loyal as a soldier, sailor or marine, and who has not property of \$2,000 or more, a sum not exceeding \$1,000, and who has not been convicted of a crime, shall be entitled to a pension. It was suggested that this was merely an effort toward a general Confederate pension, and that as soon as a roll was made, efforts would be made from year to year to increase the amount.

The act of 1912 provided that the auditor should strike from the pension rolls the names of pensioners whose incomes from other sources amounted to \$200, or who had property of assessed value of \$750. The committee recommended that the property limit be raised to \$1,000, the suggestion being made that values would be greatly increased in some sections under the assessment of 1915. The House adopted the amendment, further raising the limit to \$1,250.

**No Data on Which to Estimate.**

Mr. Moore reports that he has no data which will enable him to determine how many pensioners may be added to the roll through the increase from a property limit of \$750 to \$1,250. It is believed, however, that this will add to the rolls a very large class of veterans who have some small property and who were not heretofore eligible. A new section was added to the bill on motion of Mr. Lowry, appropriating to every Confederate soldier who lost a leg in the war, regardless of property qualifications, \$75 with which to buy an artificial limb. The bill as amended and adopted by the House will be reported to the Senate today. The House will take up the general appropriation bill today, with a view of striking from it a sufficient amount to provide the funds it has already voted for pensions, in order to avoid a deficit.

**Read Prepares Figures.**

J. Davis Reed, of Portsmouth, is one

of those who does not agree with Chairman Bremer, of the Appropriations Committee, that the appropriation bill as reported will take up practically all but \$13,990 of the fairly estimated revenues of the State for the next two years. He has prepared figures to support his claim that not only can the increased pensions be paid, with no appropriation that has been recommended curtailed, but that the State will have a greater surplus at the end of the fiscal period than it has at present. Mr. Reed quotes the auditor's report as estimating the total receipts for the year ending September 30, 1914, as at \$1,197,286. Mr. Reed claims that the auditor has not included the surplus of \$333,824 on hand October 1, 1913, or any general increase in revenue over the preceding year.

He allows for increase in revenue, not counting the sum received from the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad, of \$277,161, which, with the balance, he calculates makes the total estimated receipts \$7,767,725. The appropriation bill carries for the first year \$7,185,605, with certain additional items amounting to \$136,778, making a total of appropriations, not including the extra amounts voted yesterday for pensions, of \$7,322,383, which should leave a surplus at the end of the first year of \$445,342. By a similar method Mr. Reed calculates a surplus at the end of the second year, counting the pension increase, of \$416,505.

Going to the problem from another standpoint, and taking his figures from the report of the Auditing Committee of the General Assembly, Mr. Reed calculates the total receipts for the next two years at \$15,256,888; the total expenditures, according to all pending appropriations, of \$14,469,259, leaving a balance at the end of the fiscal period of \$787,629, less whatever may prove to be the cost of pensions for the next two years.

## THE HOUSE

The House was called to order at 10 o'clock yesterday morning with prayer by Mr. Philpott, the member from Henry County. Mr. Willis, of Roanoke, presented a resolution providing a five-minute rule for debate for the remainder of this session, with two minutes for points of order, and statements under the head of personal privilege. A half-dozen of the orators of the House were on their feet to speak at length against this motion. The chair recognized Mr. Field, of Madison, who moved the pending question, and the Willis resolution was adopted 53 to 5, without debate. On a motion to reconsider Mr. Oliver protested that it was not in order to debate for three or four days to attempt to enforce a rule on the most important measures, such as the appropriation and primary bills, which could not be fairly discussed in five minutes. Mr. Metzger, Mr. Love and others protested against the five-minute limit, but Mr. Spatig again moved the pending question and the House refused to reconsider by a vote of 41 to 16. Speaker Cox announced that the time limit would be strictly enforced, and that members who allowed themselves to be interrupted by questions would have it taken out of their time.

**The Marked Bills.**  
It is not probable that there will be any investigation by the House of the footnotes on certain bills by lobbyists, a resolution to such effect having been referred yesterday with- out action by the House. The resolution was offered by Mr. Grasty, of Augusta, and read as follows:

"Whereas, it has come to the attention of the members of the House that the following footnote was added by Mr. Williams, member of the House, to the bill for the relief of an unknown person or persons, to House bill No. 418:

"Write or write at once your member of House and Senator to defeat above bill, which is, in my opinion, the entering wedge to disturb all treasurers."

Whereas, the following footnote was added by Mr. Williams, member of the House, to the bill for the relief of an unknown person or persons, to House bill No. 226:

"Read this bill carefully. If you do not approve it write or write your representative at once."

Whereas, the practice of adding footnotes to bills by or at the insti-

gation of an unknown person or persons, for the apparent purpose of defeating such bills, is one that calling to reflect credit on the Department of Public Printing, or any other department of person, and

Whereas, the members of this House, the people and the press are strong in their condemnation of such practices, be it resolved:

"That a committee of five members of this House be appointed by the Speaker to make a thorough investigation of the footnotes to bills, and to report the result of their findings to this House within ten days."

Mr. Montague, of Richmond, moved to strike out that part of the resolution that provided for the appointment of a committee, leaving that part of the resolution which condemns such practices to stand. Mr. Grasty asserted that the House should be informed who was taking such liberties with its printing, and for what purpose, and insisted that a committee should be named to make an investigation of the footnotes, and to report the result of their findings to the Committee on Rules. Speaker Cox ruled that unless otherwise directed by the House, the resolution should go to the Committee on Printing, which was so ordered. The Committee on Printing is composed of Messrs. Watson, of Hanover; Land, of Nottoway, and Houston, of Elizabeth City.

Mr. Pennington offered an extended session resolution to refer to the method of the Auditor of Public Accounts in making up his annual report. Auditor from year to year has given credit for each county showing the amounts paid into the State treasury by such county and the amount drawn out of the treasury for expenses, roads and pensions. Counties which draw more from the State than they pay in have come to be known as "pauper counties" and the deficit has grown by the enormous surplus paid in by the cities over and above what they draw out the excess in the case of the city of Richmond last year amounting to \$18,480. Mr. Pennington's point was that in such tables the pauper counties have not been given credit for the taxes levied on railroad and telephone companies, which are collected by the State in round sums. Mr. Pennington described this as a "misleading and untrue" statement, claiming that his county of Lee, listed by the Auditor as drawing out \$19,755, would, if the taxes levied on railroads and telephones were included, be almost, if not quite, self-supporting. By a vote of 36 to 31 the House referred the resolution to the Committee on Finance, over the protest of the patron that he wanted immediate consideration.

Mr. Richmond, offered a resolution setting forth the claim that had been made that certain State institutions did not award their contracts to the lowest bidder. It was referred to the Committee on Appropriations, with accompanying names, which included Messrs. Morris & Co., meat packers, alleging discrimination against them in favor of higher bidders in the purchase of supplies for the Eastern State Hospital at Williamsburg.

On motion of Mr. Metzger, the Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation was discharged from further consideration of a bill relating to division of funds by the State Highway Commission, which bill was passed on the House calendar as No. 432.

Mr. White gave notice that he would call up his resolution providing for a constitutional amendment on initiative and referendum to-morrow morning. Mr. Montague stated that on the first day of this session he had introduced a bill appropriating \$2,000 for the relief of W. J. Whitthurst, in payment for work done by him at the University of Virginia after the fire at that institution, for a general contractor who later failed. His motion to discharge the committee from further consideration of the bill was passed by until to-day.

On motion of Colonel Leedy the vote by which House bill 345 was ordered to its engagement was reconsidered, and the bill which provides a closed season for game fish, was amended so as only to apply west of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and as amended the bill was passed by a vote of 36 to 2, carrying the largest amount ever appropriated for game fish, and which was passed with increases in every class as well as in the rules as to exemptions.

**AFTERNOON SESSION**

Local and uncontested bills were given preference at the afternoon session of the House.

Mr. Nathan, of Cousins, House bill No. 365, amending the charter of the city of Norfolk, was dismissed. It is understood that a pending Senate bill nearly meets the wishes of that city.

The following Senate bills were passed and sent to the Senate for concurrence:

Senate bill No. 237—To amend the charter of the town of West Point.

Senate bill No. 235—To amend the road law of Augusta County.

**House Bills Passed.**

The following House bills were passed and sent to the Senate for concurrence:

No. 428—To authorize King William

County to levy a license tax on vehicles for maintenance of public roads.

No. 432—To amend an act protecting fish in the streams of Augusta County.

No. 431—To provide for a public park or playground in the town of Waverly.

No. 430—To amend the charter of the city of Charlottesville.

No. 429—To amend the charter of the town of Waverly.

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